

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 7, 9 through 16, 18, and 19 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 3, 4, 8, 17, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended.

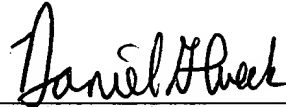
Claims 1 through 7 and 10 through 17 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claims 8 and 9 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. All rejections and objections are traversed and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of Claim 1 to include the features of Claim 8.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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